

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 02678 101216Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /052 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9720
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: PCE LEGALIZED

1. IN A SUPRISE MOVE OBVIOUSLY CALCULATED TO FIND MOST SPANIARDS DIVERTED BY THE CELEBRATION OF EASTER AND IMMERSED IN AFFAIRS OF THE FAMILY (MADRID IS HALF-EMPTY), THE INTERIOR MINISTRY ANNOUNCED LATE LAST NIGHT THE INSCRIPTION OF THE PCE IN THE REGISTER OF LEGAL POLITICAL PARTIES. THE RESOLUTION EXPLAINING THE GOVT'S DECISION STATES IN PART THAT THE "DOUBT OR PRESUMPTION OF IL-

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PAGE 02 MADRID 02678 101216Z

LEGALITY" WHICH HAD OBTAINED DURING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION OF THE PCE'S APPLICATION HAD REMAINED UNPROVEN; SINCE THIS "ONLY LEGAL OBSTACLE" HAD "DISAPPEARED," THE GOVT PROCEEDED TO REGISTER THE PARTY. THE GOS REPORTEDLY WILL BEGIN TO CONSIDER THE CASES OF THE OTHER TWENTY-ODD PARTIES REFERRED TO THE SUPREME COURT-- AND WHICH THE COURT HAD BEEN RETURNING TO THE INTERIOR

MINISTRY A FEW AT A TIME--DURING THE COMING WEEK.

2. THE REACTIONS OF THOSE POLITICIANS THE PRESS HAS BEEN ABLE TO TRACK DOWN HAVE BEEN PREDICTABLE AND LARGE-
LY POSITIVE, RUNNING FROM JUBILANCE ON THE PART OF THE PCE, THROUGH SATISFACTION REGISTERED BY THE TRADITIONAL OPPOSITION AND CENTRIST GROUPS CLOSE TO THE GOVT, TO DISAPPROVAL ON THE RIGHT. SOME SAMPLE REACTIONS FOLLOW:

--SANTIAGO CARRILLO (WHO WAS IN PARIS WHEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE): THIS IS AN ACT WHICH "FORTIFIES AND LENDS CREDIBILITY TO THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS..."

--ENRIQUE TIerno GALVAN (SOCIALIST PSP): WITH THE LEGALIZATION OF THE PCE, THE GOVT HAS "HIT THE MARK."

--RAMON RUBIAL (SOCIALIST PSOE): "THE CONFIRMATION OF OUR STRUGGLE"FOR PCE LEGALIZATION.

--JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC FDC): A "PERFECTLY JUST AND CORRECT" DECISION.

--FERNANDO ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PDC): "...AN APPROPRIATE AND OPPORTUNE MEASURE;" IT WILL REDUCE TENSIONS.

--JOAQUIN SATRUSTEGUI (LIBERAL): AN ABSOLUTELY CORRECT DECISION.

--JUAN ANTONIO ORTEGA (PARTIDO POPULAR): "A VERY FAVORABLE MEASURE;" WE HOPE NOW THAT THE PCE WILL ACT WITHIN THE LEGALITY WHICH HAS BEEN OFFERED IT.

--JUAN GARCIA-CARRES (NATIONAL VETERANS CONFEDERATION): A "GRAVE ERROR."

--RAIMUNDO FERNANDEZ CUESTA ("OFFICIAL" FALANGIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 02678 101216Z

FE DE LAS JONS); THE LEGALIZATION OF THE PCE CONTRADICTS ASSURANCES MADE BY THE GOVT TO THE CORTES DURING THE DISCUSSION LAST YEAR OF REVISIONS TO THE PENAL CODE CONCERNING POLITICAL PARTIES.

3. EARLY PRESS REACTION ALSO HAS BEEN PREDICTABLE, WITH "EL PAIS" (LIBERAL) AND "ARRIBA" (CLOSE TO THE GOVT) APPROVING THE DECISION, AND "ABC" (CONSERVATIVE, CLOSE TO FRAGA'S "ALIANZA POPULAR") OPPOSING IT. SUMMARIES OF HIGH POINTS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE SUNDAY MORNING EDITORIALS FOLLOW:

--"EL PAIS:" THIS IS GOOD NEWS, ABOVE ALL FOR THE NON-COMMUNISTS, BECAUSE IT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLARIFICATION AND NORMALIZATION OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION WITH A VIEW TO ELECTIONS, WHICH CAN NOW BE CELEBRATED IN A CLIMATE OF REAL PLURALISM. ALSO BECAUSE IT WILL HELP TO DEMYTHIFY THE SUBJECT OF THE COMMUNISTS, DEFINE THEIR REAL IMPORTANCE AND SUPPORT AND PERMIT THE ANALYSIS OF THE DEMOCRATIC CREDIBILITY OF THEIR POSITIONS. THE

ILLEGALITY OF THE PCE, BESIDES BEING AN INJUSTICE, WAS
A STUPIDITY WHICH THE COMMUNIST TOOK ADVANTAGE OF.
FROM NOW ON, THE TACIT TRUCE WHICH SOCIALISTS AND GROUPS
OF THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHT HAD CONCEDED THE COMMUNISTS, IN
VIRTUE OF THEIR "SPECIAL SITUATION," IS OVER.

--"ARRIBA:" THIS DECISION SHOULD MEAN THE COMPLETE
NORMALIZATION OF OUR POLITICAL LIFE; THE OVER COMING
OF ONE OF THE UNKNOWNNS WHICH HAD CLOUDED THE POLITICAL
HORIZON; ANOTHER PROOF OF THE SINCERITY OF THE EXPRESSED
PURPOSES OF THE MONARCHY AND ITS GOVT; THE TRIUMPH OF REALISM
OVER FEARS AND "NOSTALGIA;" AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT
THE DESIRE OF THE KING TO MAKE A PLACE WITHIN SPAIN'S
INSTITUTIONS FOR ALL SPANIARDS, REGARDLESS OF IDEOLOGY,
CAN NOW BE TRANSFORMED INTO DEEDS.

--"ABC:" VIEWING THE DECISION AS PREMATURE AT BEST,
"ABC" LABELS IT "AN EXTREMELY GRAVE DECISION AND AN ER-
ROR ON THE PART OF THE GOVT WHICH WE ONLY HOPE IT WILL
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PAGE 04 MADRID 02678 101216Z

NEVER HAVE TO REGRET." WE "DISAGREE WITH THIS MEASURE
AS BEING COMPLETELY USELESS IN SERVING THE ENDS WHICH
THE GOVT IS SEEKING, AND WHICH WILL ONLY SERVE TO HEIGHT-
EN PASSIONS JUST BEFORE ELECTIONS."

4. COMMENT: THIS WAS A DIFFICULT DECISION, BUT FROM THE
TACTICAL ELECTORAL POINT OF VIEW ONE THAT SHOULD BE
HELPFUL BECAUSE IT WILL DEMYTHIFY THE COMMUNISTS, DE-
MONSTRATE THEIR REAL ELECTORAL STRENGTH (PRESUMED TO
BE QUITE SMALL), AND REDUCE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE GOVT
AND THE LEFT OPPOSITION. THINKING ON THIS ISSUE HAD
EVOLVED A GREAT DEAL IN RECENT MONTHS TO THE POINT
WHERE MANY HAD BEGUN TO EXPECT THE LEGALIZATION OF THE
PRATY THROUGH THE JUDICIAL PROCESS BEFORE ELECTIONS.
WE MUST PRESUME THAT THE MILITARY WAS CAREFULLY CON-
SULTED AND WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS DECISION. EATON

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